

Inside Wallops

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Model Rocket Launches at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility's Visitor Center

March 1st marks the beginning of the annual model rocket season at NASA Wallops Flight Facility's Visitor Center.

For nearly 25 years, the Visitor Center's staff has been routinely launching an assortment of low power model rockets for public viewing.



NASA photo

Victoria Rose (left) launches her model rocket while Alyson Hickman waits for a turn on the launcher.

On the first Saturday of each month, from March to November, and the first and second Saturday in July and August, visitors can watch 5 – 10 rockets fire from a multi-rail launcher to altitudes up to 500 feet. As many as 300 people have come out to watch this popular event.

The models are usually made of paper, plastic and/or balsa wood and use solid fuel motors.

In addition to those built by the Visitor Center staff, visitors are encouraged to

participate by bringing their own launch-ready rockets, up to size D motor.

Summertime also brings more launches with the return of the Virginia Space Flight Academy kids.

During the week-long camps, participants build their own one and two-stage rockets to launch at the Visitor Center.

Each week campers typically launch 25 to 35 rockets and the public is encouraged to come and cheer them on!

Because of the Visitor Center's proximity to the Wallops airfield, launches may be postponed or cancelled due to airport operations.

Launches are also cancelled for inclement weather, including winds exceeding 18 miles per hour.

All programs at the Visitor's Center are free to the public, and there is no admission fee.

For more information on the model rocket launches call the Visitor Center at 757-824-2298.

The Visitor Center, part of the Robert L. Krieger Education Complex, is located on Route 175 about six miles from Route 13 and five miles from Chincoteague, VA.

NASA Awards Aircraft Catalog Blanket Purchase Agreement

NASA has selected 10 offerors to receive Aircraft Catalog Blanket Purchase Agreements, or BPAs, to provide the agency with access to a variety of airborne platforms to conduct airborne science research and range support including, radar surveillance and telemetry relay capability.

These aircraft platforms will accommodate light, medium, and heavy-lift instrumentation payloads on fixed wing platforms.

Both manned and unmanned aerial platform access is available under these BPAs.

The instrumentation payload(s) will be provided by the U.S. government or by non-U.S. government customers.

Additional services of engineering, fabrication, and installation may be needed depending on the payload.

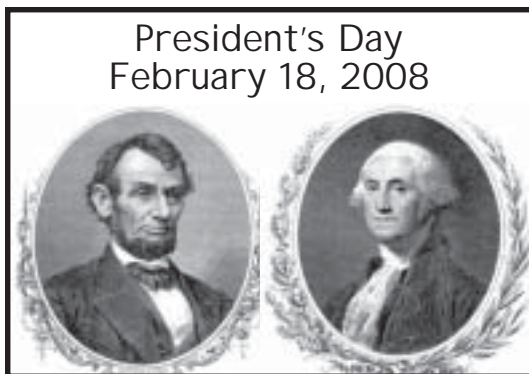
The catalog of BPAs will be managed by the Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, though the missions will be conducted at various locations within and occasionally outside the United States.

Each BPA has a maximum ordering value of \$10 million and an ordering period of five-years.

The offerors include:

- * AIRTEC – St. Mary's County, MD
- * Batelle Memorial Institute – Columbus, Ohio
- * Dynamic – Bridgewater, VA
- * FAA, LLC – Merritt Island, FL
- * L3 Comm/BAI – Easton, MD
- * Mohawk Technologies – Lantana, FL
- * Orbital Sciences – Dulles, VA
- * Theiss Aviation – Salem, Ohio
- * Twin Otter Int'l – Las Vegas, NV
- * Univ Research Foundation – Greenbelt, MD

President's Day
February 18, 2008



Wallops Black History Club Presents an Evening of Dinner & Entertainment

Saturday, February 23
5 p.m. to midnight
Cropper Center



The guest speaker, Robert Tittle, NASA Physical Scientist, will address "Blacks Making a Difference in Mathematics, Science, and Technology". Entertainment will be provided by Jerome Custis, "Songbird" & Steppers. The 2008 Academic Achievement Award will be presented followed by a dance featuring DJ Blackjack.



Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased by February 16.

For tickets or more information, contact Rebecca Beach at x1625, Cheryl Johnson at x1607 or Freda Johnson at x1466



Proceeds will benefit the Wallops Black History Club's Academic Achievement Fund for high school students in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware who plan to major in math, science, engineering and technology.

Paperless Statements

Beginning in March, NASA civil service employees will access their Leave and Earning Statements electronically through Employee Express and will no longer receive paper statements.

Visit the Employee Express web site and sign up today:
<https://www.employeeexpress.gov/>

For questions, call 1-877-677-2123. For technical assistance logging in or signing up with Employee Express, call 1-888-353-9450.

Words to Live by

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend"
..... Martin Luther King, Jr.



Happy Valentine's Day

Preserve the Environment - Recycle

Everyone can make a significant contribution towards preserving the environment on the Eastern Shore by RECYCLING!



This can be done without a lot of effort. Although Wallops has an active Recycling Program, a "dumpster diving" survey indicates up to 30 percent of the items found in WFF dumpsters can be recycled.

This means we are filling up valuable space in the Accomack County landfill.

Use recycling containers for:

-Aluminum cans and plastic items No plastic flatware or styrofoam cups. Contact Marianne Simko at x2127 for

containers to recycle aluminum cans and/or plastic bottles

- Cardboard boxes. Label the cardboard "TRASH", break it down, and place outside your office door for custodial pickup.

-White paper. Deposit the paper in white cardboard recycling containers provided in all buildings. Remove colored paper covers from soft bound reports.

Three ring binders. Call the HELP Desk at x5357 for pickup.

DO NOT use any recycling container for food disposal.

DO NOT bring trash from home to put in dumpsters at Wallops.

Call Freda Johnson at x1466 for additional information or to get a recycling container.

Copier Assistant Software is Now Available

Copier assistant software, designed to work with the Xerox multifunctional device copiers, allows customers who are wheelchair users and blind or visually impaired users to easily program copy jobs.

The software helps users be more productive and independent by improving accessibility to copying features; enlarging on-screen user interface; simplifying copying jobs with easy-to-use, easy-to-program features; and embedding text-to-speech software that talks the user through the copying steps, including stapling, collating, two-sided copying, and indicates when doors are left open or paper trays are empty.



Braille labels also are available that can be affixed to any copier control console.

To receive more information regarding this software or Braille labels, contact Benjamin Hall at x66-4422 or by email: Benjamin.E.Hall@nasa.gov.

Flu shots are still available.

Call the Health Unit at x1266



Wallops On the Road

Jay Pittman, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, spoke to students at Broadwater Academy, Exmore, Va., on February 6.

Rebecca Powell, NASA Public Affairs Office, took part in a Career Day event at Wicomico High School, Salisbury, Md., on February 6.

Jack Vieira, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, participated in a Career Day event at Pocomoke (Md) High School on February 7.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found at: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/news/newsletters.html>

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